

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

November 17, 2009

Is Los Angeles County ready for an H1N1 worst scenario? Do Los Angeles County hospitals, both public and private, have enough emergency room space and treatment stations and hospital beds to meet the need? Are there sufficient staff, equipment and supplies?

Most importantly, what is the plan to quickly anticipate or detect deficiencies in patient care and to remedy them right away? Is there mobile or temporary space such as tents that can be set up quickly? When do we deploy our mobile hospital? Are there pre-arranged sources for supplementary staff, equipment and supplies? Are means in place to communicate effectively, accurately and consistently with the public and among health care providers? Who will be in charge of the medical response and coordination among hospitals in the County?

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MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

ANTONOVICH _____

KNABE _____

Yes, we know that the worst-case scenario is very unlikely. However, one of the lessons learned from the New Orleans area during and following Katrina is what can happen when worse case scenario hits and there is not a good plan for it. Knowing we have a good plan is not only a good idea for H1N1 now, but also for any future and less predictable events, such as an earthquake or tsunami, that can and will occur in the future.

This Board is now receiving regular briefings on efforts to prevent and treat H1N1. An extended, detailed briefing on preparations for a worst-case scenario is in order at this time so that the Board and the public will know that Los Angeles County is ready.

On September 3, 2009 the Board approved my motion to have the Chief Executive Officer to pursue Federal and State resources to prepare and respond to the seasonal and H1N1 influenza. The Board should also receive a written update on this Board directive.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Executive Officer, with the Directors of Public Health, Health Services, other affected Department Heads and other appropriate individuals, to provide an extended and specific briefing to the Board within no more than two weeks on the County's plan to deal with a worst-case H1N1 infection surge scenario.

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I FURTHER MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Executive Officer to provide monthly written updates on their efforts to pursue Federal and State resources needed to prepare and respond to the seasonal and H1N1 influenza.

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RE:eg